

REMARKS

Claims 20-22, 45-46, and 49-52 are pending and are rejected. Reconsideration and allowance of Claims 20-22, 45-46, and 49-52 are respectfully requested.

Examiner's Prior Action Withdrawn

In paragraph 10 of the current Office Action, the Examiner states the "Applicant's arguments, see Remarks, filed 4/1/2009, with respect to Claims 20, 45, and 50 have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the prior Office Action has been withdrawn." Accordingly, the current Office Action makes clear that Applicant's arguments presented in the prior response dated 4/1/2009 were sufficient to overcome the prior 35 USC §103 rejections of Claims 20, 45, and 50.

However, in the current Office Action, the Examiner seems to repeat the same rejections using the same references, which were overcome by Applicant's previous arguments. Indeed, the rejections of independent Claims 20 and 45 set forth in the current Office Action are identical to the rejections of independent Claims 20 and 45 set forth in the previous Office Action dated 3/16/2009. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that the current rejections of independent Claims 20 and 45 are NOT sufficient to establish a prima facie case of obviousness under 35 USC §103 of independent Claims 20 and 45, and therefore independent Claims 20 and 45 are patentable over the cited references.

All Pending Claims are Allowable

As indicated above, the Examiner has not made a prima facie case of obviousness of independent Claims 20 and 45 under 35 USC §103, and therefore independent Claims 20 and 45 are allowable.

Claims 21-22 and 52 depend from Claim 20 and therefore distinguish over the cited references for at least the same reasons as Claim 20.

Claims 46 and 49-51 depend from Claim 45 and therefore distinguish over the cited references for at least the same reasons as Claim 45.

CONCLUSION

In light of the above remarks, it is believed that Claims 20-22, 45-46, and 49-52 are allowable, and therefore a Notice of Allowance of Claims 20-22, 45-46, and 49-52 is respectfully requested. If the Examiner's next action is other than allowance as requested, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at (408) 236-6646.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'W' and 'P' followed by a horizontal line.

William L. Paradice III
Patent Attorney
Reg. No. 38,990

July 30, 2009